

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS: UR, ECRE, ECEM, ECON
SUBJECT: CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION DIFFICULTIES IN THE FAR EAST
AND SIBERIA

REF: MOSCOW 8098

1. SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA APRIL 20 DISCUSSES SOME PROBLEMS WHICH WE ASSUME MAY HAVE BEEN AMONG THE ECONOMIC REASONS FOR BREZHNEV'S RECENT TRIP. IT INDICATES THAT CONSTRUCTION OF NEW CAPACITY AT CERTAIN UNDEFINED "ADDRESSES" IN THE SOVIET FAR EAST AND SIBERIA HAS FALLEN BEHIND PLAN. THE MINISTRY OF CONSTRUCTION OF HEAVY INDUSTRY ENTERPRISES, ALTHOUGH INCREASING THE VOLUME OF COMPLETED WORK 40PERCENT OVER THE FIRST QUARTER OF LAST YEAR, STILL FAILED TO ACHIEVE THE TARGETS FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF THE PRESENT YEAR. APPARENTLY, AMONG OTHER THINGS, NOT ALL THE CONSTRUCTION OF MINERAL FERTILIZER AND CHEMICAL CAPACITY THAT HAD BEEN PLANNED HAS BEEN COMPLETED. THIS INCLUDES THE CHEREPOVETSKIY CHEMICAL AND CHEREPOVETSKIY NITRIC FERTILIZER PLANTS, WHERE AMMONIA AND "AMMOFOC" ARE TO BE PRODUCED. IT APPEARS THAT THESE CONSTRUCTION SITES, AT THE VERY LEAST, WILL NOT RECEIVE

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ADDITIONAL FUNDS. RATHER, THE ARTICLE STATES THAT WHAT IS NEEDED IS MORE PURPOSEFUL AND ENERGETIC WORK TO RAISE THE TEMPO OF CONSTRUCTION. IT CLAIMS THAT THESE CONSTRUCTION SITES HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY SUPPLIED WITH THE MATERIAL, TECHNICAL AND OTHER RESOURCES NECESSARY, THAT MORE INTENSIVE USE OF RESOURCES IS NEEDED, AND THAT ACHIEVING SUCCESS IS IN THE HANDS OF THE

CONSTRUCTION WORKERS AND FITTERS. AS AN EXAMPLE OF UNDERUTILIZATION OF RESOURCES, IT CHIDES THE MINISTRY OF INSTALLATION AND SPECIAL CONSTRUCTION WORK FOR ITS UNDERUTILIZATION OF CRANES.

2. COMMENT: THIS ARTICLE INDICATES THAT FOR AT LEAST SOME CHEMICAL AND FERTILIZER PLANTS IN SIBERIA AND THE SOVIET FAR EAST, INCREASED CAPACITY MUST RESULT FROM MORE EFFICIENT USE OF EXISTING RESOURCES RATHER THAN FROM ABOVE PLAN INCREMENTS IN INVESTMENT. BREZHNEV'S TRIP TO SIBERIA AND THE SOVIET FAR EAST FOCUSED CURRENT ATTENTION ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF SIBERIA AND THE SOVIET FAR EAST DUE TO ITS NATURAL RESOURCES AND INDUSTRIAL CAPACITY. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF HIS COMMENTS ON BRATSK AND UST-ILIMSK (PARA 5 REFTEL), HE DID NOT INDICATE WHETHER INCREASED CAPACITY WOULD COME FROM ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT OR FROM MORE EFFICIENT USE OF EXISTING RESOURCES. IF THIS ARTICLE HAS WIDER IMPLICATIONS, THEN IT APPEARS THAT A NUMBER OF CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS IN SIBERIA AND THE FAR EAST ARE BEING TOLD TO ACHIEVE CONSTRUCTION TARGETS WITHIN ALREADY PLANNED RESOURCE ALLOCATIONS. TOON

NOTE BY OC/T: TELEGRAM DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.

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